

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-17 (Previously Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising an antibody ~~which, wherein said antibody~~ specifically ~~reacts with~~ binds an isolated IL-13bc protein ~~comprising~~ ~~consisting of~~ an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

~~the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;~~

~~the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 22 to 334;~~

~~the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 357 to 383;~~

~~the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4;~~

~~the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 from amino acids 26 to 341; and~~

~~the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 from amino acids 363 to 380.~~

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Claims 19-37 (Previously Cancelled)

Claims 38-40 (Currently Cancelled)

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): A method of inhibiting binding of IL-13 or fragments of IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, ~~the~~ ~~said~~ method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising an antibody, wherein said antibody specifically ~~binds~~ ~~reacts with~~ an isolated IL-13bc protein ~~consisting of~~ ~~comprising~~ an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

~~the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;~~

~~the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 22 to 334;~~

~~the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acids 357 to 383;~~

~~the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4;~~

~~the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 from amino acids 26 to 341; and~~

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 from amino acids 363 to 380.

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4;

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 from amino acids 26 to 341; and

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 from amino acids 363 to 380.

Claims 42-45 (Currently Cancelled)

Claim 46 (New): An antibody that binds an isolated human IL-13bc protein.

Claim 47 (New): The antibody of claim 46, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

Claim 48 (New): The antibody of claim 46, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

Claim 49 (New): The antibody of claim 48, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 50 (New): The antibody according to claim 46 useful in treating or modulating IL-13-related conditions selected from allergic conditions, asthma, immune complex diseases, lupus, nephrotic syndrome, nephritis, glomerulonephritis, thyroiditis, Grave's disease, immune deficiencies, and cancer in a mammalian subject.

Claim 51 (New): A comprising the antibody according to claim 46.

Claim 52 (New): A method of treating or modulating IL-13-related conditions selected from allergic conditions, asthma, immune complex diseases, lupus, nephrotic syndrome, nephritis, glomerulonephritis, thyroiditis, Grave's disease, immune deficiencies, and cancer in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 46.

Claim 53 (New): A method of inhibiting binding IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising an antibody according to claim 46.

Claim 54 (New): An antibody that inhibits binding of IL-13 or fragments of IL-13 to IL-13bc or the IL-13 receptor.

Claim 55 (New): The antibody of claim 54, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

Claim 56 (New): The antibody of claim 54, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

Claim 57 (New): The antibody of claim 56, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 58 (New): The antibody according to claim 54 useful in treating or modulating IL-13-related conditions selected from allergic conditions, asthma, immune complex diseases, lupus, nephrotic syndrome, nephritis, glomerulonephritis, thyroiditis, Grave's disease, immune deficiencies, and cancer in a mammalian subject.

Claim 59 (New): A composition comprising the antibody according to claim 54.

Claim 60 (New): A Method of treating or modulating IL-13 related conditions selected from allergic conditions, asthma, immune complex diseases, lupus, nephrotic syndrome, nephritis, glomerulonephritis, thyroiditis, Grave's disease, immune deficiencies, and cancer in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 54.

Claim 61 (New): A method of inhibiting binding IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising an antibody according to claim 54.

Claim 62 (New): An antibody to a fragment of IL-13bc that has biological activity.

Claim 63 (New): The antibody of claim 62, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

Claim 64 (New): The antibody of claim 62, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

Claim 65 (New): The antibody of claim 64, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 66 (New): The antibody according to claim 62 useful in treating or modulating IL-13-related conditions selected from allergic conditions, asthma, immune complex diseases, lupus, nephrotic syndrome, nephritis,

glomerulonephritis, thyroiditis, Grave's disease, immune deficiencies, and cancer in a mammalian subject.

Claim 67 (New): A composition comprising the antibody according to claim 62.

Claim 68 (New): A method of treating or modulating IL-13-related conditions selected from allergic conditions, asthma, immune complex diseases, lupus, nephrotic syndrome, nephritis, glomerulonephritis, thyroiditis, Grave's disease, immune deficiencies, and cancer in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 62.

Claim 69 (New): A method of inhibiting binding IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising an antibody according to claim 62.

Claim 70 (New): An antibody to a IL-13bc protein encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which varies from the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEO ID NO:3 as a result of the degeneracy of the genetic code.

Claim 71 (New): The antibody of claim 70, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

Claim 72 (New): The antibody of claim 70, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

Claim 73 (New): The antibody of claim 72, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 74 (New): The antibody according to claim 70 useful in treating or modulating IL-13-related conditions selected from allergic conditions, asthma, immune complex diseases, lupus, nephrotic syndrome, nephritis, glomerulonephritis, thyroiditis, Grave's disease, immune deficiencies, and cancer in a mammalian subject.

Claim 75 (New): A composition comprising the antibody according to claim 70.

Claim 76 (New): A method of treating or modulating IL-13-related conditions selected from allergic conditions, asthma, immune complex diseases, lupus, nephrotic syndrome, nephritis, glomerulonephritis, thyroiditis, Grave's disease, immune deficiencies, and cancer in a mammalian subject, the method comprising

administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 70.

Claim 77 (New): A method of inhibiting binding IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising an antibody according to claim 70.

Claim 78 (New): An antibody to a IL-13bc variant protein encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 under highly stringent conditions.

Claim 79 (New): The antibody of claim 78, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

Claim 80 (New): The antibody of claim 78, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

Claim 81 (New): The antibody of claim 80, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 82 (New): The antibody according to claim 78 useful in treating or modulating IL-13-related conditions selected from allergic conditions, asthma, immune complex diseases, lupus, nephrotic syndrome, nephritis, glomerulonephritis, thyroiditis, Grave's disease, immune deficiencies, and cancer in a mammalian subject.

Claim 83 (New): A composition comprising the antibody according to claim 78.

Claim 84 (New): A method of treating or modulating IL-13-related conditions selected from allergic conditions, asthma, immune complex diseases, lupus, nephrotic syndrome, nephritis, glomerulonephritis, thyroiditis, Grave's disease, immune deficiencies, and cancer in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 78.

Claim 85 (New): A method of inhibiting binding IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising an antibody according to claim 78.